

Sustainable Southampton Committee
December 15, 2009

Committee Members in Attendance: Tip Brolin (Chair), Scott Carlin, Bob DeLuca, Tony Panza, Dorothy Reilly and Paul Rogers

Committee Members not in Attendance: M. Ross Baldwin, Nancy Graboski, Sheryl Heather, Ann Reisman, Janice Scherer and Anna Throne-Holst

Also in Attendance: Kate Schertel (Group for the East End) and Frank Zappone (Representative for Anna Throne-Holst)

Approval of Minutes: Tip asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Bob DeLuca made a motion to approve the minutes, Tip Brolin seconded the motion and the minutes of the December 1, 2009 meeting of the committee were unanimously approved.

Action Items: Tip asked the committee to review the list of action items and he noted that Sandra Cirincione has been unable to make her assigned action items a priority due to other pressing town matters. Tip reviewed the action items and reported on progress for each. Progress on several items is summarized below.

No Idling Ordinance: Tip noted that the committee should consider prioritizing the passage of a "no idling" ordinance to offset some of the emissions associated with transportation, which is the largest of all the categories of greenhouse gas emissions. Tip will contact Sheryl Heather to secure a date when she will have a response from the Business Alliance on this proposed law.

REEP Program: With regard to the Residential Energy Efficiency Program (REEP), Tip reported that the Bridgehampton National Bank has agreed to provide a line of credit to be used to implement the program in the near term when financial times are tough in Town Hall. This program would model the Babylon program that offers tax incentives to homeowners who make energy efficiency improvements to their homes.

Committee Membership: Tip asked the committee to consider whether additional members should be added to the roster, or if the committee should stay at its current size.

After some discussion, there was consensus among committee members present that a manageable size for the committee would be 12 members, including one member from the Town staff with voting rights (currently Janice Scherer). Voting members may appoint a suitable alternate (e.g., Kate Schertel will serve as an alternate with voting rights for Bob DeLuca). Town Board members would be considered approved ex-officio members without voting rights. Other Town staff will attend committee meetings where their areas of expertise are related, but these staff people would not be voting members.

Tony Panza made a motion to approve the above standards for committee membership, Bob DeLuca seconded the motion and the standards for committee membership were unanimously approved. Tip agreed to communicate this information to the Town Board.

Tip asked members to think about which subcommittees should be reestablished, in order to accomplish the committee's objectives.

Commercial Energy Code: Tip reported that the proposed commercial energy code would be brought to a public hearing in mid-January (subsequently changed to February 9). There was some discussion regarding who should speak at the hearing. Tony Panza agreed to reach out to various organizations in the building trade to find out if they are willing to lend their support, or indicate they do not object to the legislation. Paul Rogers wrote to the Peconic Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), but he has not yet heard a response regarding their opinion of the proposed legislation. The AIA did not support the residential energy code, so they may also express concerns with the commercial code. Paul agreed to secure a few architects that would speak in support of the code at the hearing.

Presentation to Town Board Work Session: Tip is in the process of confirming an appointment to present an update on the committee to the Town Board at one of its January work sessions. He will present action items and encourage the Town to move forward and/or support the work of the committee.

Poxabogue Golf Course Management: After some discussion, there was consensus among committee members present that the Town should require organic and low nitrogen management of the Poxabogue Golf Course. Kate Schertel agreed to reach out to Indian Island County Park to research their turf management strategy, which likely attempts to protect the waters of the Peconic Bay Estuary. Tip asked that Sheryl Heather and Kate report back to the committee by the third week in January with a specific recommendation for the management of Poxabogue Golf Course. Kate agreed to contact Sheryl with this information and determine a time frame, since Sheryl was not present at the meeting to agree to these terms.

Sustainability Coordinator Position: Three local candidates have been interviewed. Tip will reach out to the Town's Human Resources Department regarding the scheduling for a second round of interviews.

Meetings with Town Board Members: Dorothy Reilly suggested that the committee would benefit from hearing the sustainability interests of Town Board members, once all new members have formally taken office. Town Board members would be invited one at a time to a meeting to share their ideas. Dorothy suggested contacting these members in the near term to give them a period of time to think, and scheduling meetings beginning January 5th. Tip and Dorothy will coordinate on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m. and the next meeting of the committee was confirmed for Tuesday, January 5th, 2010.